

March 3, 2020

Dear Legislators;

On the subject of SB00184 and HB5262 I respectfully request that you DO NOT SUPPORT passage of either bill. The change in absentee ballot qualifications will achieve nothing but the creation of almost unlimited opportunities for cheating to influence election outcomes and will sow debilitating mistrust and doubt about the integrity of those results.

Today, 63% of European Union nations have banned mail-in voting except for those living overseas, and an additional 22% have banned overseas absentee voting as well. Most of the countries that still permit mail-in voting require a photo ID in order to obtain an absentee ballot. What do they know that we apparently don't as we are currently considering these bills?

They learned through bitter experience that vast methods and opportunities to illegally affect election outcomes, and thwart the voters' will by unlimited mail-in voting, is largely immune to safety protocols and safeguards. They discovered that vote buying and fraud are almost impossible to detect. They experienced the kind of destabilizing delays in reporting out election results that we lived through during the 2020 election cycle. They concluded that unlimited mail-in voting was unacceptable in their nations and I submit that we should follow their wise example.

Connecticut has a long history of conducting fair and free elections through both good and bad times without requiring a subversion of the state Constitution in order to do so.

It is my hope that we learn from our European friends and resist the pressure to pass these bills.

Sincerely,

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